



# NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Contact:  
Pam Doty (217) 774-3951  
Pamela.J.Doty@usace.army.mil

## 2010 Lake Shelbyville Boat Rafting Policy

**Lake Shelbyville** – In 2007, Lake Shelbyville had more boating accidents than any body of water in Illinois including the Chicago area of Lake Michigan and four water-related fatalities. In 2008 & 2009, Lake Shelbyville was one of the bodies of water in Illinois that had the fewest number of boating accidents. The implementation of the boat rafting policy and increased boat patrol were the main differences. These changes help ensure a safer and more family friendly environment.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, working with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Conservation Police, local law enforcement, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, and other agencies on the Lake Shelbyville Water Safety Task Force Team recently evaluated the policy. The Lake Shelbyville Boat Rafting Policy for 2010 is as follows:

1. Up to five boats allowed in a raft without requiring a special use permit. For the purposes of this policy a raft is defined as two or more boats tied together.
2. No more than 50 people will be allowed on any raft of boats that consists of five boats or less.
3. Required distance between each raft of boats is 150 feet.
4. Special Use Permit, which is free of charge, will be required for a raft of boats that consists of more than five boats and up to 20 boats.
  - Seven days is needed to process the permit so a permit needs to be requested at least seven days and no more than 30 days in advance. Five requests can be put on the same permit as long as they are all in a 30 day period.
  - No more than four persons per boat will be allowed for each additional boat over five. For example eight boats in a raft would be limited to a total of 62 persons in a raft.
  - Life jackets are to be worn at all times on rafts greater than five boats unless person is below deck or in an enclosed cabin.
  - Kegs containing alcoholic beverages or portable PA systems are not allowed.

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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – ST LOUIS DISTRICT – LAKE SHELBYVILLE

RR 4, Box 128B, Shelbyville, IL 62565  
<http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Shelbyville>

A special use permit can be obtained by visiting or calling the Lake Shelbyville Project Office at 217-774-3951. The office is located on the east end of the Lake Shelbyville Main Dam off of IL Route 16 east of Shelbyville and is open Monday – Friday 8am to 4pm. Information needed for the permit is name, address, and phone number of person requesting permit, number of boats in the raft, location on Lake Shelbyville where boats will be rafted, date(s) when boats will be rafted, and state registration number and owner or operator of every boat in the raft.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Lake Shelbyville Boat Rafting Policy contact the Lake Shelbyville Interpretive Services and Outreach Department by email [lakeshelbyville@usace.army.mil](mailto:lakeshelbyville@usace.army.mil) or by calling 217-774-3313.

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